

# STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
George Epp. - Director



Bill Owens  
Governor

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Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## State Emergency Operations Center Activated

(DENVER) – At the direction of Governor Owens, Colorado's State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) / Multi Agency Coordination Center (MACC) was activated at 7:00 a.m. this morning in support of potential requests for assistance in response to the winter storm headed toward Colorado. The Center, operated by Colorado's Department of Local Affairs, Division of Emergency Management (CDEM), is located in Centennial and was activated last Wednesday through Friday when a blizzard dumped several feet of snow on the Colorado Front Range.

CDEM Division Director George Epp notes citizens need to be prepared. "Although we should always be prepared for weather events in Colorado, last week's storm hit us hard leaving hundreds of people stranded in their cars. The National Guard worked through the night to rescue those folks.

"We're activating the Center before this storm hits to be ready to assist the locals by coordinating resources if they find they need help. As we did last week, we're working with the Governor's Office, Department of Transportation, Colorado State Patrol, Military Affairs, Red Cross, and local Emergency Management offices throughout the state to determine available resources."

Epp adds, "It's critical people use common sense in snow storms. We're urging folks to avoid unnecessary travel. Families should have a plan in place to get in touch with one another if away from home. An emergency supplies kit should be in every home and car. It's important to remember, preparedness begins with the individual."

Governor Owens urged citizens in the warning and watch areas to pay close attention to weather updates and be prepared, if necessary, to delay or adjust their travel plans.

More winter preparedness information may be found on our website at: <http://dola.colorado.gov/dem>. Click on Winter Weather Preparedness Week. For information on road conditions in Colorado, go to: <http://www.cotrip.org/>.

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